

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 DHA-02 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02 /054 W

-----030911Z 105302 /14

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 850

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MI

SUBJECT: FUNSANI DETENTION

REF: A. LILONGWE 0645 B. STATE 097050

1. AT MY REQUEST POLICE COMMISSIONER RECEIVED DCM, WHO WAS IN ZOMBA, AT HIS HEADQUARTERS MORNING APRIL 30 TO PRESENT CASE STATED REFTEL A. DCM OPENED BY STRESSING HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON INTEREST AND OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FUNSANI AND PROFESSOR SIMONS AND GIVEN THAT, IF GOM HAD COMPLAINT IT SHOULD RIGHTLY BE MADE TO U.S. EMBASSY. DEMARCHE CONCLUDED BY THANKING POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THESE FACTS AND THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST PLEASED IF FUNSANI WERE ON LIST OF PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED ON OCCASION OF KAMUZU DAY (MAY 14).

2. POLICE COMMISSIONER, WHO AMIABLE THROUGHOUT, SAID HE APPRECIATED RECEIVING "ADDITIONAL ANGLE" WITH WHICH TO REVIEW CASE AND THAT HE WOULD QUESTION FUNSANI BEFORE MAY 5 (HE GAVE NO EXPLANATION OF DATE, BUT IT COULD POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO DEADLINE FOR PREPARATION OF LIST OF DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED ON KAMUZU DAY).

3. POLICE COMMISSIONER THEN ASKED, "ISN'T YOUR LUSAKA LIBRARY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL ESTABLISHED AS ONE IN BLANTYRE?" TO WHICH DCM RESPONDED "YES, BUT THAT COLLECTIONS WERE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL". DCM ADDED SIMONS'

REQUEST FOR MATERIAL ON U.S. LABOR LAW "NOT AVAILABLE IN ZAMBIA" (PARA 2, REFTEL A) WAS INDEED PLAUSIBLE.

4. POLICE COMMISSIONER CONTINUED THAT FUNSANI, AS MALAWIAN

CITIZEN, SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF CONTACT WITH PERSON FROM ZAMBIA WHO IS "COMMUNIST". (THIS WAS FIRST REFERENCE TO SIMONS AS COMMUNIST BY POLICE COMMISSIONER AND CHECKS WITH INFO PROVIDED BY EMBASSY LUSAKA). DCM RESPONDED BY SAYING SIMONS WAS IN MALAWI AS DELEGATE FROM ZAMBIA TO ARCHIVIST CONFERENCE AND AS EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY FOR ALL ENTRANTS INTO MALAWI WIDELY KNOWN, IT SEEMED NATURAL THAT ONCE HERE SIMONS WOULD NOT AROUSE SUSPICIONS; IF FACT THAT SIMONS WAS IN USIS LIBRARY CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT, THAT SUCH COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DIRECT TO U.S. GOVERNMENT AND NOT FUNSANI WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO MAKE ACCESSIBLE LIBRARY READING MATERIAL WHICH IN ANY CASE HAD ALL BEEN CLEARED BY GOM CENSORSHIP BOARD.

5. POLICE COMMISSIONER THEN TOOK LINE THAT DETENTION OF FUNSANI WAS "PROTECTING MISSION" FROM CHARGES, TO WHICH DCM EMPHATICALLY REPLIED THAT USG ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR USIS OPERATIONS AND THAT LETTER FROM SIMONS TO FUNSANI, WHICH FUNSANI HAD NEVER RECEIVED, WAS MISADDRESSED AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT TO PAO. DCM ADDED HE FELT SURE THAT IF FUNSANI HAD ACTUALLY RECEIVED THE LETTER HE WOULD HAVE TURNED IT OVER TO PAO. DCM FURTHER COMMENTED THAT IF SIMONS LETTER HAD BEEN PASSED TO PAO, LATTER WOULD NOT HAVE ANSWERED SIMONS' REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ANY SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF MALAWI MIGRATORY LABOR.

6. POLICE COMMISSIONER THEN ASKED IF USIS HAD HIRED SOMEONE TO REPLACE FUNSANI, TO WHICH DCM REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY WASHINGTON NOT TO REPLACE FUNSANI AS LATTER IS ALUED EMPLOYEE WHOSE CASE WE HOPED WOULD SOON BE RESOLVED SO THAT HE MIGHT ONCE AGAIN TAKE UP HIS DUTIES.

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7. MEETING ESTABLISHED THAT POLICE COMMISSIONER SUSPICIOUS OF EMBASSY AND/OR FUNSANI MERELY ON BASIS OF CONTACT BY SIMONS, AND THAT BY DETAINING FUNSANI HE (POLICE COMMISSIONER) IS "PROTECTING MISSION". THIS "TUNNEL VISION" NOT OUT OF PLACE IN BANDA'S MALAWI. HOPEFULLY, ABOVE PRESENTATION WILL HAVE MADE SOME IMPACT. IN ANY CASE, POLICE COMMISSIONER PROMISED TO QUESTION FUNSANI BEFORE MAY 5 AND WAS ASKED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF RESULTS.

8. REFTEL B RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE INCLUDED IN APRIL 30 MEETING. HOWEVER, I INTEND SEEK MEETING WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER MAY 6 EN ROUTE BLANTYRE (FOR DEPARTURE TO AF CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE) TO APPRISE HIM OF CONTENTS REFTEL B AND SEEK RESULTS HIS QUESTIONING FUNSANI.

STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: FUNSANI DETENTION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MI, USIA, (FUNSANI, JUSTIN)
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89c35087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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